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Skyhook Foundation  
ATTN: Deborah Morales, Executive Director  
20434 S. Santa Fe Ave. 3194  
Long Beach, CA 90810

Dear Ms. Morales,

The Indiana Council for the Social Studies, in conjunction with the support from the National Council for the Social Studies, is pleased to endorse and promote the viewing of Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's newly created historic film about the Harlem Renaissance and Civil Rights called *On the Shoulder of Giants*, along with the use of the NCSS created lessons designed to compliment it.

The work of Kareem Abdul-Jabbar -- the championship basketball player, the accomplished historian, and the community and character-building philanthropist who created the Skyhook Foundation -- demonstrates a solid advancement in the exploration of US History. This film will avail schools with an engaging, innovative, and thought-provoking avenue through which to discover and unwind the cultural, athletic and human stories of the 1920's and 1930's.

In a state where:

- basketball has a noteworthy and marked history -- especially with the storied Crispus Attucks High School who was led by Oscar Robertson to be first all-black high school in the nation to win a state championship in 1955,
- Madame C. J. Walker, the first female self-made millionaire, constructed a theatre building that continues to overlook Indiana Avenue's Cultural District and its distinctive role in the African American cultural heritage of the Indiana,
- the Indiana Black Expo cements the state's continued direct and visible leadership in the healthy development of diversity in America,
- and the Landmark for Peace Memorial in Indianapolis commemorates Robert F. Kennedy's historic speech the night of the Martin Luther King Jr. assassination...

...Center Grove High School's 2300 students and all partnering schools within the state will find many local connections to this film about the arts, culture, basketball, and Civil Rights.

This film is adeptly created from and inspired by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's recent history *On the Shoulder's of Giants: My Journey Through the Harlem Renaissance*, and it molds a vibrant and compelling narrative tale both from Kareem's personal reflections and professional historic research. The title of both of these works is taken from the famous Isaac Newton quote which implied that each of us and our great contributions to humanity first owe a debt of gratitude to the achievements and contributions of our ancestors who propped us up to our current opportunities. Released during Black History Month, this video will open a window of opportunity so students can see some these culturally and historically significant "giants" were, both in their achievements and their character. Harlem Renaissance leader Marcus Garvey states the importance of our appreciation of our cultural and intellectual roots when he said, "A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin, and culture is like a tree without its roots."

I look forward to sharing this opportunity, this film, and the curricular materials with our high school's 2300 students, Indianapolis Public Schools 2,000 US history students, and the whole state of Indiana's 72,000 US History students.

Sincerely

*Alan Hagedorn*

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